Arboricultural Method Statement

Land adjacent to Laindon Link Basildon Essex

13th April 2021



PJC ref: 5607/21-03 Rev 01

This report has been prepared by

PJC Consultancy Ltd

on behalf of

Sempra Homes Ltd

Prepared by	Peter Davies FdSc Arboriculture M.Arbor.A Peter has a Foundation Degree in Arboriculture from the University of Brighton and is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association. He has twelve years experience in the arboricultural industry, originally working as a groundsman and feller, and progressing into consultancy. He is a Lantra accredited professional tree inspector.	
Checked by	Luke White FdSc Arboriculture M.Arbor.A Luke is an arboriculturist with over nine years experience working within the arboricultural and forestry industry with the latter seven years workin within consultancy. He gained a foundation degree in arboriculture with distinction from the University of Brighton in 2012, is a professional member of the Arboricultural Association and an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters.	

Sussex office:

Rocks Yard, Victoria Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4TQ **Tel:** 01323 832120

E: contact@pjcconsultancy.com

Kent office:

Unit 1, Hanover Mill, Mersham, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6NU **Tel:** 01233 225365

W: www.pjcconsultancy.com





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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

1.1.1 This method statement is written in conjunction with arboricultural survey ref. PJC/5607/20-01 Rev 02 and arboricultural impact assessment ref. PJC/5607/20-02.

1.2 Instruction

1.2.1 PJC Consultancy has been instructed by Sempra Homes Ltd to provide an arboricultural method statement in accordance with BS5837: 2012 '*Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations*', for proposed construction works at land adjacent to Laindon Link in Basildon.

1.3 Objective of this report

1.3.1 In order to safeguard retained trees on site during development works it is necessary to implement a tree protection strategy. The objective of the following arboricultural method statement is to provide protection methodology for retained trees throughout the construction period, including the above ground and below ground parts of the trees as well as their rooting medium. This report is concerned with the protection of all retained trees at the site including trees around the curtilage with the potential to be impacted by the construction works.

1.4 Limitations of report

1.4.1 This document is based on the plans and information made available to the author on the date of the report. Updates to the arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan may be required following detailed design stage of development including the engineers specification for the toddlers play area, the routing of utilities and the provision of a construction logistics plan (notably locations for cranes and the contractor compound).

1.5 Contents of report

- 1.5.1 This report includes the following:
 - Arboricultural method statement
 - Tree protection plan



2 ARBORICULTURAL METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 General requirements

- 2.1.1 The arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan shall remain on site for the duration of demolition, construction and landscaping works and be available to site operatives at all times. All operatives at the site shall be briefed about tree related factors as part of their site induction.
- 2.1.2 Any variation from the methodology described in this method statement shall be discussed with the supervising arboriculturist and agreed with the local authority arboricultural officer.

2.2 Phasing of works

2.2.1 To ensure trees are protected throughout the development, the proposed development shall occur in the following order:

Works Order	Operation	Notes
1	Initial tree works.	The tree works contractor shall undertake the tree removals and access facilitation pruning specified in the arboricultural impact assessment. Completion of these works will be required to enable the installation of tree protection barriers.
2	Installation of tree protection barriers.	Tree protection fencing shall be installed in the primary locations shown on the tree protection plan and to the specification described in this method statement.
3	Pre- commencement meeting.	The project arboriculturist shall attend a site meeting with the site manager. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be notified so they may also attend. The above pre- start arboricultural works shall be signed off by the project arboriculturist during the meeting. The meeting shall occur before any plant activity, ground works or demolition/construction activities begin.
4	Demolition phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be maintained, and the construction exclusion zones observed throughout the demolition phase. Tree protection fencing shall be moved to the secondary locations shown on the tree protection plan adjacent to T25 and T48, and temporary ground protection shall be installed adjacent to T8, T9 and T25 when the existing car park surface is removed.
5	Construction phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be maintained, and the construction exclusion zones observed throughout the construction phase.
6	Soft landscaping phase.	The tree protection barriers shall be dismantled when external construction and hard landscape operations have been completed and plant machinery or excess construction materials have been removed from site. Soft landscape operations shall occur sensitively as described in this method statement.

Table 1: Phasing of works



2.3 Initial tree works

- 2.3.1 The tree removals and access facilitation pruning specified in the arboricultural impact assessment shall be carried out as the first stage of development. Any requirements for access facilitation pruning which have not been anticipated on the date of this report (e.g. for contractor compound, movement of large/specialist plant machinery or crane operation) shall be discussed at the pre-commencement meeting with the project arboriculturist and be agreed to the local authority arboricultural officer. Works to trees protected by a TPO or owned by the council will require permission from the local planning authority.
- 2.3.2 Tree stumps and vegetation located within the root protection areas of retained trees shall be cleared with controlled hand tools (e.g. stump grinder/brush cutter). Plant machinery shall not be used to scrape vegetation, 'grub out' stumps within root protection areas, or access the site until the tree protection barriers have been installed.
- 2.3.3 If bonfires are lit to dispose of arisings from the vegetation or tree clearance works, an assessment of wind direction and strength shall be made to ensure flames cannot extend within 5m of any part of a retained tree. No bonfires shall be lit within a root protection area.
- 2.3.4 Trees should be checked for protected species before works are undertaken. It is against the law to disturb bats or their roosts under the Conservation of Habitat and Species Regulations. Nesting birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act. If protected species are discovered, Natural England should be contacted for advice.
- 2.3.5 The tree works contractors should carry out all tree works to BS3998: 2010 '*Tree works recommendations*' as modified by research that is more recent. They should also carry relevant, adequate and up to date insurance.
- 2.3.6 It is suggested that an Arboricultural Association approved contractor carry out all tree works. Approved contractors are expected to work to industry best standards. The Arboricultural Association website (<u>www.trees.org.uk</u>) contains contact details and information on engaging a suitable contractor.

2.4 Tree protection barriers

- 2.4.1 The root protection areas of retained trees must be left free from disturbance, and protected from contamination or compaction during the proposed works. Protection shall comprise a combination of tree protection fencing and temporary ground protection.
- 2.4.2 Tree protection fencing shall initially be installed in the primary locations highlighted dark blue on the tree protection plan. It shall be moved to the secondary locations highlighted brown on the plan adjacent to T25 and T48 when the existing car park surface has been removed from within the root protection areas. A further adjustment to the fencing adjacent to T51 will also be required to enable the new footpath to be constructed during the construction phase of development.
- 2.4.3 The specification for tree protection fencing shall be metal welded mesh panels (e.g. Heras panels), in concrete or rubber feet. The panels shall be supported by metal stabiliser struts mounted on either a base plate secured by ground pins, or in a block tray (refer to Appendix 2). The stabiliser struts must be located on the



construction exclusion zone side of the fencing. Any variation from this specification for tree protection fencing shall be discussed with the project arboriculturist and agreed in writing with the local authority arboricultural officer.

- 2.4.4 Signs shall be affixed to the fencing as shown in Appendix 3 to explain its purpose. The signs shall be affixed at a reasonable size and frequency to ensure they are easily visible to operatives at the site.
- 2.4.5 The tree protection fencing shall be maintained until the soft landscaping phase of development when all other construction activities in the vicinity have been completed, and excess construction materials and plant machinery have been removed from site. Any damage that occurs to the tree protection fencing during the construction period must be rectified immediately, prior to other construction activities recommencing in the vicinity.
- 2.4.6 To create a usable workspace between Blocks C-E and trees T8, T9 and T25 (following removal of the existing car park surface which will initially provide ground protection), temporary ground protection shall be installed in the locations shown on the tree protection plan. Once installed, the temporary ground protection shall remain in situ until the soft landscaping phase of development.
- 2.4.7 The specification for temporary ground protection shall be interlocking proprietary ground protection boards (e.g. IsoTrack L Ground Protection Mat or equivalent product signed off by the project arboriculturist) on a compressible layer (150mm woodchip from the initial tree works or sharp sand), spread across a geotextile membrane. This specification is designed to support loads of up to 2 tons only. If larger loads need to be supported, a more robust ground protection specification shall be agreed with the project arboriculturist. Examples of more heavy duty temporary ground protection measures (if required) include the following:
 - A cellular confinement system (provided by CellWeb or similar product agreed with the project arboriculturist and installed to the manufacturers specification) with a temporary surface such as a sacrificial geocell (if the lower geocell is later to be used as the base for permanent hard standing) or plastic/metal road plates.
 - A heavy-duty proprietary ground protection system adequate to support the anticipated range of construction traffic (provided by IsoTrack or similar product).
 - Pre-cast reinforced concrete slabs.
 - A bespoke ground protection system made to an engineer's specification and signed off by the project arboriculturist.
- 2.4.8 The areas protected by tree protection fencing (highlighted yellow on the tree protection Plan) or temporary ground protection shall be referred to as the construction exclusion zones. The following restrictions shall apply within the construction exclusion zones:
 - No vehicular access shall be permitted unless on adequate temporary ground protection measures that have been agreed with the project arboriculturist.
 - Regular pedestrian access shall be restricted unless on suitable ground protection measures agreed with the project arboriculturist.
 - No storage of construction materials shall occur.



- No storage of building spoil or construction debris (including short-term temporary stockpiling) shall occur.
- No harmful chemicals shall be stored or handled.
- No fires shall be permitted.
- No mechanical excavation including regrading of levels shall occur.
- There shall be no change in ground level unless undertaken under the supervision of the project arboriculturist.
- No construction activities including installation of new permanent hard standing shall be undertaken unless otherwise specified in this method statement.

2.5 Storage and handling of harmful chemicals

- 2.5.1 Provision must be taken to prevent the storage and handling of harmful chemicals within the root protection areas of retained trees. Harmful chemicals include fuels, oils, bitumen, builder's sand (which has a high salt content) and cement. Provision shall also be made to prevent the storage and handling of harmful chemicals in areas proposed for further planting if the existing soil is intended to be retained.
- 2.5.2 Cement mixing shall always occur outside the construction exclusion zones. If cement mixing is to occur close to the construction exclusion zones, or there is the potential for cement washings to leech into a root protection area, adequate, bunded ground protection measures must be used. This could comprise impermeable plastic sheeting under wooden boards (to prevent tears) surrounded by a raised lip.
- 2.5.3 All other chemicals that are harmful to trees must be stowed in suitable containers and stored away from the construction exclusion zones unless adequate, bunded ground protection measures are implemented to prevent spillages leeching into root protection areas.

2.6 Contractor facilities

2.6.1 A suitable location for site cabins, contractor parking and site facilities for operatives shall be agreed with the project arboriculturist during the precommencement meeting if not already specified in a construction logistics plan that has been signed off by the project arboriculturist. These facilities must be located outside the root protection areas of all retained trees unless on adequate ground protection measures that have been signed off with the project arboriculturist (potentially including existing hard standing). Provision must be taken to prevent exhaust fumes or hot air from generators or kitchen facilities from damaging foliage within the crowns of retained trees.

2.7 Removing existing hard standing from root protection areas

- 2.7.1 The existing tarmac car park surface located within the root protection areas of T7, T8, T9, T25, T41 and T48 shall initially provide ground protection for construction traffic. Vehicular access across the root protection areas shall be prohibited when the surface has been removed, (refer to section 2.4).
- 2.7.2 The existing wearing course shall be broken up using controlled hand tools (e.g. pneumatic breaker) and removed from the root protection areas by hand. If it is deemed impractical or unsafe to achieve this using hand tools only, plant machinery operated under the supervision of a designated banksman may be used instead. The machine must be fitted with a grading bucket (without teeth) and be



operated from outside the root protection areas unless on a retained area of hard standing. The banksman must be present at all times to spot shallow roots or overhanging branches that may not be visible to the machine operator. If roots are revealed during this operation, use of the machine must immediately cease and the operation shall be continued by hand. If roots are exposed, they shall be covered with a layer of topsoil to prevent desiccation or frost damage.

2.7.3 To minimise the chance of encountering tree roots, as much of the sub-base shall be retained below ground level as is feasible, with a layer of topsoil imported to enable soft landscaping. If it is deemed necessary to remove the sub-base to allow sufficient soil volume to be imported for the proposed soft landscaping, the sub-base shall be removed carefully in shallow increments following the same methodology required for removing the wearing course.

2.8 Services

- 2.8.1 New foul and surface water drainage pipes will encroach the root protection area of T25. Due to the proximity to the tree, the pipes must be installed using a trenchless technique, unless the contractor justifies why that is not feasible, in which case the pipes shall be installed as described below. The methodology for installing the drainage adjacent to T25 must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation.
- 2.8.2 A new foul drain will encroach the root protection areas of T8 and T9, and a surface water drain shall encroach the root protection and of T54. Trenchless techniques will not be feasible within these root protection areas.
- 2.8.3 All excavation within the root protection areas of T8, T9 and T54 shall occur carefully using hand tools or an airspade. Roots revealed under 25mm diameter may be cleanly pruned using secateurs to leave the smallest feasible wounds. Roots over 25mm shall not be pruned unless the project arboriculturist has first been consulted.
- 2.8.4 Revealed roots that are to be retained shall immediately be wrapped in hessian cloth. This will help protect the delicate root bark during remaining excavation works and help prevent desiccation or frost damage if the excavations are left exposed for prolonged periods. The hessian cloth shall be removed when the trenches are backfilled
- 2.8.5 When the trenches are backfilled, roots that are retained shall be surrounded by a small amount of inert granular material mixed with sharp sand or topsoil. This will help prevent damage to the roots if the soil is compacted when the trenches are backfilled.
- 2.8.6 The routing of new utilities (gas, electric, clean water and telecoms) for the development are not available on the date of this report. These must be signed off by the project arboriculturist before implementation. Wherever possible, the services must completely avoid the root protection areas of retained trees. Where this is not feasible, the arboriculturist shall provide an arboricultural method statement (to be signed off by the local authority arboricultural officer before implementation) detailing any sympathetic methodologies that are required to minimise damage to tree roots (as described in NJUG4 '*Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utilities in proximity to trees*' and BS5837: 2012).



2.9 Excavating building footings within root protection areas

- 2.9.1 Block E encroaches the root protection area of T8, Block D encroaches the root protection area of T25 and an electric substation encroaches the root protection area of T53 (areas hatched red on the tree protection plan). The excavations in these areas shall occur by hand up to a depth of 600mm (unless significant roots are still being revealed near the base of the excavations). Roots revealed shall be cleanly pruned using secateurs to leave the smallest feasible wound. Small clean pruning wounds require less energy from the tree to heal and reduce the chance of infection by tree pathogens. Roots over 25mm diameter must not be pruned unless the project arboriculturist has first been consulted to assess the potential impact on the tree.
- 2.9.2 The detailed foundation designs and excavation methodology for Blocks D, E and the substation are to be confirmed on the date of this report. It is essential that these avoid the requirement for any over-dig (e.g. battering banks of deep excavations) that would further encroach the root protection areas.

2.10 Replacing existing surfacing within root protection areas

- 2.10.1 The existing tarmac car park surface shall be replaced with new hard standing footpaths within the root protection areas of T7, T8, T25 and T41 in the areas hatched green on the tree protection plan. The existing tarmac surface within the root protection areas shall provide ground protection for construction traffic. Vehicular access across the root protection areas shall be prohibited between the time the existing surface is removed and the new surface is installed (refer to section 2.4).
- 2.10.2 The existing wearing course shall be broken up using controlled hand tools (e.g. pneumatic breaker) and removed from the root protection areas by hand. If it is deemed impractical or unsafe to achieve this using hand tools only, plant machinery operated under the supervision of a designated banksman may be used instead. The machine must be fitted with a grading bucket (without teeth) and be operated from outside the root protection areas unless on a retained area of hard standing. The banksman must be present at all times to spot shallow roots or overhanging branches that may not be visible to the machine operator. If roots are revealed during this operation, use of the machine must immediately cease and the operation shall be continued by hand. If roots are exposed, they shall be covered with a layer of topsoil to prevent desiccation or frost damage.
- 2.10.3 The existing sub-base shall be reused (augmented as necessary) for the new surfaces. If it is deemed necessary to remove any of the sub-base to enable the correct levels for the finished surfaces (these must first be signed off by the project arboriculturist), removal of the sub-base must occur carefully in shallow increments following the same methodology required for removing the wearing course.

2.11 Installing new permanent fencing within root protection areas

2.11.1 Installation of permanent fencing within the root protection areas of T64 and T67 will require access into a construction exclusion zone. Only pedestrian access will be permitted into the construction exclusion zone and scaffold board pathways (or equivalent) shall be used in wet conditions. Ideally this shall occur during the



soft landscaping phase of development when it is safe to dismantle the tree protection fencing.

- 2.11.2 The fencing specification is to be confirmed on the date of this report. Within the root protection areas, a fencing type that requires only postholes (no trenching) shall be used. The level of the fence must follow existing ground levels as there should be no regrading of levels within root protection areas.
- 2.11.3 The postholes shall be hand excavated with care taken to avoid damaging or severing roots with a diameter greater than 25mm. Ideally the postholes shall be pre-dug to ensure significant roots can be avoided. The postholes shall be sleeved with impermeable sheeting before any concrete is added to prevent alkaline burn to retained roots. Cement mixing shall occur outside the construction exclusion zone.

2.12 Soft landscaping within root protection areas

- 2.12.1 Soft landscaping within the root protection areas of retained trees shall occur as the final phase of development, when all other construction activities in the vicinity have been completed and it is safe to dismantle the tree protection barriers. The detailed specification for soft landscaping is to be confirmed but is expected to include turfing and tree/shrub planting within root protection areas.
- 2.12.2 All planting stock, topsoil and other soft landscaping materials shall be stockpiled outside the root protection areas of retained trees. When the tree protection barriers have been dismantled, the extents of the root protection areas shall be made clear to operatives at the site by other means (e.g. ground marker paint or similar). The standard restrictions to works within the construction exclusion zones will still apply during the soft landscaping phase of development.
- 2.12.3 Where new turf or grass seed is to be laid within the root protection areas of retained trees, topsoil will likely need to be imported. The existing soil may be lightly tilled by hand but use of rotavators or plant machinery will be prohibited. A maximum increase of 100mm of topsoil may be introduced to a root protection area to avoid suffocating existing root growth. Care must be taken to prevent soil being piled against tree buttresses or buttress roots.
- 2.12.4 When soil or other materials are transported across a root protection area in wet conditions, scaffold board (or equivalent) pathways must be used to prevent compaction of the rooting medium. It should be noted that even regular pedestrian traffic can compact the soil in wet conditions.
- 2.12.5 All planting pits within root protection areas shall be individually hand excavated (no trench planting). Care must be taken to avoid severing or damaging roots with a diameter greater than 25mm.

2.13 Arboricultural supervision

- 2.13.1 Arboricultural supervision will be required for the following stages of development:
 - Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturist shall review and where necessary provide input into the construction logistics plan. Where necessary, this arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan shall be updated to accommodate the construction management plan.
 - Prior to commencement of works, the project arboriculturist shall review the routing of new utility services and either confirm there will be no encroachment



into root protection areas or provide an arboricultural method statement detailing how the services can be installed sensitively.

- A pre-commencement meeting shall be held between the contractors and the project arboriculturist. The local authority arboricultural officer shall be given reasonable notice of the pre-commencement meeting so they may also attend. The meeting shall occur before any plant activity, ground works or demolition/construction activities begin. The purpose of the precommencement meeting shall be:
 - 1. To clarify the tree protection methodology with the site manager.
 - 2. To sign off that the pre-commencement tree works have been completed as specified in the arboricultural impact assessment, and to agree any requirements for access facilitation pruning which have not been anticipated prior to the meeting.
 - 3. To sign off that the tree protection barriers have been installed in the correct locations and to the agreed specification.
- Prior to implementation, the project arboriculturist shall sign off that the proposed methodology for the installation of foul and surface water pipes within the root protection area of T25 adequately protects the tree.
- The project arboriculturist shall sign off that the prescribed methodology is followed for installing new drainage pipes within the root protection areas of T8, T9 and T54.
- The project arboriculturist shall sign off the detailed foundation designs including methodology for excavation adjacent to trees T8, T9, T25 and T53 to ensure no over-dig is required outside the building footprints.
- Prior to implementation, the project arboriculturist shall sign off that the engineers specification (including levels) for the new footpath to be installed within root protection area of T51 adequately protects the tree.
- Prior to installation, the project arboriculturist shall sign off that the detailed specification for the new toddlers play area within the root protection area of T25 adequately protects the tree.
- The site manager shall provide a monthly update to the project arboriculturist including photographic evidence that the tree protection barriers are intact and that the construction exclusion zones have been observed.
- 2.13.2 If significant root growth is disturbed during construction activities that are not within the scope of this report, the work shall cease until the project arboriculturist has been consulted. Roots greater than 25mm in diameter or dense/matted fibrous roots shall be considered significant root growth. It should be remembered that whilst root protection areas are part of industry best practice, tree root growth is influenced by a number of factors and may not conform to expected ideals.
- 2.13.3 If at any time during the construction process, damage is inadvertently caused to a tree, the project arboriculturist shall be notified to assess the likely implications and to prescribe potential remedial measures to be implemented. Damage can be in the form of chemical or fuel spillage, mechanical damage to either the above ground parts of the tree or the roots, fire or any other unforeseen circumstance.



2.13.4 The supervising arboriculturist shall be appointed by the contractor. It will be necessary for the arboriculturist to report to the local planning authority on the outcome of the site visits as well as any unforeseen tree related issues.



Contact details		
Sussex office: Rocks Yard Victoria Road Herstmonceux Hailsham East Sussex BN27 4TQ	Kent office: Unit 1, Hanover Mill Mersham Nr Ashford Kent TN25 6NU	
Tel: 01323 832120	Tel: 01233 225365	
Author: Peter Davies		
Date: 13 th April 2021		
E-mail: pete@pjcconsultancy.com		



Appendix 1: Tree Protection Plan



	Root protection area for tree to be retained
\bigcirc	Canopy of tree with TPO to be retained
\bigcirc	Canopy of tree without TPO to be retained
	Tree protection fencing - primary location
	Tree protection fencing - secondary location
\bigcirc	Temporary ground protection
	Construction exclusion zone
	New building footing within root protection area
	New hard standing within root protection area
	Existing hard standing replaced within root protection area
	Existing hard standing removed from root protection area

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/5607/21-02 contains further information for each tree. This drawing should be viewed in colour.

Tree numbers suffixed with PA indicate the tree position is approximate.





Rev: 01 **Sheet number:** 1 of 4

Client and site: Sempra Homes Ltd

Land adjacent to Laindon Link Basildon Essex

Drawing title: Tree Protection Plan

Date drawn: 13/04/2021

Scale: 1:200 at A1

Drawn by: PD

Checked by: LW





PJC Consultancy Rocks Yard, Victoria Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4TQ.

t: 01323 832120 e: contact@pjcconsultancy.com w: www.pjcconsultancy.com



	Root protection area for tree to be retained
	Canopy of tree with TPO to be retained
\bigcirc	Canopy of tree without TPO to be retained
	Tree protection fencing - primary location
	Tree protection fencing - secondary location
\bigcirc	Temporary ground protection
	Construction exclusion zone
	New building footing within root protection area
\bigcirc	New hard standing within root protection area
	Existing hard standing replaced within root protection area
	Existing hard standing removed from root protection area

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/5607/21-02 contains further information for each tree. This drawing should be viewed in colour.

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Root protection area for tree to be retained

Canopy of tree with TPO to be retained

Canopy of tree without TPO to be retained

Tree protection fencing - primary location

Tree protection fencing - secondary location

Temporary ground protection

Construction exclusion zone

New building footing within root protection area

New hard standing within root protection area

Existing hard standing replaced within root protection area

Existing hard standing removed from root protection area

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/5607/21-02 contains further information for each tree. *This drawing should be viewed in colour.*

Tree numbers suffixed with PA indicate the tree position is approximate.





Rev: 01

Sheet number: 3 of 4

Client and site: Sempra Homes Ltd

Land adjacent to Laindon Link Basildon Essex

Drawing title: Tree Protection Plan

Date drawn: 13/04/2021

Scale: 1:200 at A1



Checked by: LW

Arboricultural, Ecological & Landscape Consultancy



PJC Consultancy Rocks Yard, Victoria Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4TQ.

t: 01323 832120 e: contact@pjcconsultancy.com w: www.pjcconsultancy.com



Root protection area for tree to be retained Canopy of tree with TPO to be retained

Canopy of tree without TPO to be retained

Tree protection fencing - primary location

Tree protection fencing - secondary location

Temporary ground protection

Construction exclusion zone

New building footing within root protection area

New hard standing within root protection area

Existing hard standing replaced within root protection area

Existing hard standing removed from root protection area

Appendix 2, (Tree Survey Schedule) contained within the arboricultural report ref. PJC/5607/21-02 contains further information for each tree.

This drawing should be viewed in colour.

Tree numbers suffixed with PA indicate the tree position is approximate.



Drawing no: PJC/5607/21/D

Rev: 01

Sheet number: 4 of 4

Client and site: Sempra Homes Ltd

Land adjacent to Laindon Link Basildon Essex

Drawing title: Tree Protection Plan

Date drawn: 13/04/2021

Scale: 1:200 at A1

Drawn by: PD





Checked by: LW

PJC Consultancy Rocks Yard, Victoria Road, Herstmonceux, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 4TQ.

t: 01323 832120 e: contact@pjcconsultancy.com w: www.pjcconsultancy.com





Appendix 2: Tree Protection Fencing Specification

a) Stabilizer strut with base plate secured with ground pins



b) Stabilizer strut mounted on block tray



Appendix 3: Example Protective Fencing Sign

